

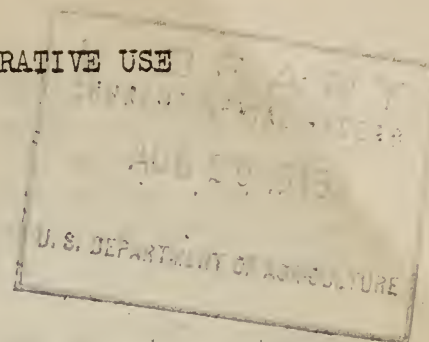
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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Office of Marketing Services
Marketing Reports Division
821 Market Street, Room 700
San Francisco 3, California
Western Region

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS
Week ending February 23, 1945



FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Potatoes: End of the month reaction toward allowable ceiling increases the first of March resulted in lower shipments the past week from all shipping points except Maine. Maine shippers are pressing to move their crop as result of shortage of shipping space. Only 575 cars moved from Idaho, while 1,712 moved from Maine, and 4,412 from all U.S. shipping points. Totals for the season to date: Idaho 27,919 cars, U.S. 209,749 cars. Totals last year to this same date: Idaho 29,576 cars, U.S. 225,853 cars. Wholesale and shipping point prices remained at ceiling.

Lettuce: Fob shipping point sales closed the week at \$3.25 per crate of 4 to 5 dozen heads. Wholesale prices held fairly steady at \$4.00 to \$4.25 in the Northwest, and in the Southwest at \$2.50 to \$3.75 per crate of 4s and 5s for best quality, poorer ranged lower.

Carlot shipments from shipping points were heavier the past week, with 1,374 cars moving out of California and Arizona and a total of 1,392 out of all U.S. sections. Seasons total to date: U.S. 25,794 cars, Western Region 11,076 cars.

Cabbage: Shipments of fresh cabbage from the Western Region have dropped to a daily average of 3 cars. U.S. shipments have increased to 128 cars daily. Total cars for the past week were 897 throughout the U.S., 59 more cars than for the week previous.

Fresh crop harvest in the Imperial Valley, California, is expected to be fairly well over by the middle of the coming week. Present supplies are going mostly to the dehydrators.

Shipping point prices on Western Region cabbage have remained near 90 cents to \$1.15 per 50 pound sack. Wholesale prices on western markets for top quality stock closed the week in the Southwest at \$1.50 to \$1.65 for 50 pound sacks of round domestic type, and \$3.00 to \$3.25 for crated stock; in the Northwest at \$1.40 to \$1.50 for 50 pound sacks, and crated stock at \$3.75 to \$4.25 per crate. (90 lbs.)

Carrots: Carload movement of bunched stock the past week was slightly under that of the previous week, 486 cars for the U.S., and 348 cars for the Western Region, compared with 589 cars, and 474 cars for the previous week. The Imperial Valley harvest is now getting into full swing, and with fewer cars for loading going to both lettuce and cabbage, wholesale markets are likely to receive heavier shipments the next few weeks. Total U.S. shipments now crop this season to date 7,455 cars, last season same date 4,952 cars.

Shipping point prices the past week have fluctuated, but closed the week at \$1.75 to \$2.25 per crate of 6 dozen bunches, and 75 cents to 90 cents per 50 pound sack of topped stock. Western wholesale prices were \$4.00 to \$4.75 in the north and mostly \$3.00 to \$3.25 in the south for good quality stock.

(Over)

Asparagus: Although local truck shipments have been reaching the San Francisco market for more than a week, the first carload was sent out this past week. Portland and Seattle have both received small shipments of the western "grass", and wholesale prices were up to 75 cents per pound. California wholesale market prices were mostly 25 cents to 40 cents per pound at the close of the week, while at the close of the previous week they were around 60 cents per pound.

Apples: WFO 121 has been amended to permit the unlimited movement of Delicious apples to civilian trade. The decision to remove Delicious apples from the order was made by WFA after it was determined that the armed forces and other governmental agencies had obtained their requirements for these apples.

Oranges: Rail movement declined the past week to 1,148 cars from the Western Region, and 2,704 cars from the U.S., representing decreases of 8 percent and 16 percent respectively.

Wholesale prices in the Northwest closed the week at \$5.00 to \$5.35 per box, all sizes, and in the Southwest for Navels packed 220 and larger \$4.25 to \$4.50 per box, while 344s were \$3.00 to \$3.50 per box.

SUPPORT PRICES

Grower support prices on vegetables for canning have been announced in USDA release 276-45 dated February 14, 1945. Copies of the detailed release may be obtained upon request.

DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Eggs: Production in the Western Region the past week has increased and supplies are now nearly meeting demand, particularly on the lower grades. Top grades are about meeting demand. Dealers in some of the markets, as Portland, the past week started packing for storage. Retail markets in the Los Angeles area were reported to have had well stocked shelves at the close of the week.

Prices have held at or just below the new ceiling, and indications point to slight declines as production advances the next few days.

Poultry: Supplies of live and dressed poultry were well under demand all week and many dressing plants continued to be out of operation. Prices through the regular channels were within the ceiling.

Butter: Demand continued to exceed available supplies. Sales the past week increased, but were about a third lower than for the corresponding week last year. Production had increased about 5 percent, but for the West Coast was still about 13 percent below last year at the same time.

The Administrator on WFO No. 2 has again called attention to the set-aside announcement made February 12, and has asked vendors to speed up offerings of export packed set-aside butter to meet urgent shipping schedules for overseas requirements. Credit for over-deliveries in the early months of 1945 will be allowed in subsequent months.

(More)

Turkeys: Prospects for the 1945 U.S. crop indicate that it will be about 8 percent greater than in 1944. The Western Region crop appears to be about 106 percent of the 1944 crop, or about 10, 897,000 birds, 28 percent of the U.S. crop.

Dairy production payments: USDA release 287-45 issued February 14, specifics production payments for April to December, 1945. The detailed release showing tentative rates by quarters may be obtained upon request.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

Cattle: Receipts the past week on the four western markets were 16,448 head, 17 percent less than the previous week and 9 percent above the same period last year. On the twelve principal markets 222,000 head were received, 93 percent of the previous weeks' receipts, and 110 percent of those for the same period a year ago.

Top prices on the western markets continued the wide range of the previous week, \$16.25 to \$18.00 for good fed steers, although generally prices had declined 25 to 30 cents per hundred weight. Top prices on good cows ranged \$12.75 to \$13.25.

Hogs: Receipts the past week on the four western markets dropped 68 percent of those for the previous week, a total of 7,377 head. On the twelve principal markets receipts were 221,400 head, 99 percent of receipts for the previous week and 36 percent of the receipts for the same period a year ago. Demand has continued to exceed receipts, and prices have remained at ceiling.

Sheep: Receipts the past week: Four western markets; 15,886 head, 129 percent of the previous week, and 118 percent of the same week a year ago. Twelve principal markets; 187,400 head, 99 percent of the previous week, and 94 percent of the same week a year ago. Demand and clearance remained good. Top prices on the western markets ranged \$15.00 to \$16.50 on good to choice lambs, a slight increase over the previous week.

GRAIN PRODUCTS

Wheat: In the mid-west market area, car shortage held the spotlight the past week, and prices held at ceiling. In the west and northwest, offerings were small and demand slow with prices little changed from the previous week. More favorable weather conditions, and rainfall in the winter wheat belt has improved growth and condition of the wheat.

Rice: Demand, export and domestic, has remained urgent, and prices held at ceiling during the past week.

Barley: Prices on barley in Kansas City moved up 3 cents per bushel, in San Francisco down $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 cents per hundred, while in Portland there was little change over the week. Demand was good, and offering moderate.

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